

DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL FOOD SECURITY: ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

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ABSTRACT

The estimation of malnourished children living in the developing world is 80% and ironically these developing countries are producing food surpluses. The existence of malnutrition is perhaps the problem of two factors broadly classified in to Distribution, and Accessibility (Kattumuri, 2011). The year 2015 marks the end of the monitoring period for the two internationally agreed targets for hunger reduction. The first is

- The World Food Summit (WFS) goal. It was held in 1996 in Rome, where council of 182 governments pledged to entirely remove hunger from all countries, with an urgent vision of implementation by reducing the number of malnourished humans by fifty percent not later than 2015, The 2nd was the Millennium Development Goal 1 (MDG 1) hunger target.

KEYWORDS: Food Security, Millennium Development Goals, Hunger

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INTRODUCTION

189 nations promised in 2000 to free people from numerous deprivations, keeping in mind that every individual has the right to dignity, freedom, equality and a basic standard of living which includes freedom from hunger and violence. It led to the formulation of eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in 2001. The MDGs were then made operational by the establishment of targets and indicators to track progress, at national and global levels, over a reference period of 25 years, from 1990 to 2015. The first MDG, or MDG 1, includes three distinct targets:

- Reducing global poverty by half,
- Achieving 100% employment and decent work for all, and
- By 2015 reducing the number of hungry people by half.

The recent Prevalence of Undernourishment estimates highlights that the developing nations have almost reached the MDG 1c hunger target. From required target of 2015 the estimated reduction in 2014–16 is less than one percentage point away .

Despite having noticeable progress in many nations, the needed growth has not been able to materialize. The question that arises is why we could not catch up with targets or what are the reasons behind it. May be because of the challenges in terms of Volatile commodity prices, global environment: Overall higher energy and food prices, rising unemployment rates and, above all, the economic recessions globally which occurred during late 1990s and again after 2008, extreme weather changes and natural disasters, Political instability and civil wars

have also made the situation of hunger pitiable (FAO, 2015).

Besides this The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) identifies more issues (direct) that are responsible for food insecurity of households and individuals in the developing world. These are, poverty, population growth, no agricultural BTIs, ecological imbalances, limited cultivable land, health and hygiene, poor water and sanitation, poor nutritional knowledge, and ethnic conflicts (USAID, 1995). However the GHI record of India (Kattumuri, 2011) goes down from 41.23 in 1981 to 23.90 in 2009. India ranked 55 last year as compared to its ranking which was 63.

India still faces the same issue of widespread poverty and hunger despite good economic growth in the past .The major reason being the shift from farming to industrial and tertiary sector, the poor rural population which is more than 300 million people, with approximately 30 % of India's rural population living in poverty, it has come down from 37.2% in 2004-05 to 29.8% in 2009-10. Rural poverty has reduced by 8 percentage points from 41.8% to 33.8% and urban poverty by 4.8 percentage points from 25.7% to 20.9% over the same period (World Bank, 2012).

25 percent of the world's hungry population lives in India..Under 5, 43 per cent of children are estimated to be malnourished. Ironically India remains an important global agricultural player, despite the fact that agriculture's share in the economy is shrinking with growing industrialization. India has the world's largest area under cultivation for rice, rice, cotton and wheat and is the world's largest producer of milk, pulses, and spices. Nearly three-quarters of India's households are dependent on rural incomes (IFPRI, 2012).

What Is Household Food Security?

(FAO, 1974) states 'Food Security' as a concept has continuously evolved over the last few decades. Originally the focus was on the supply side of the food equation concentrating on adequate 'availability' of food at the national and international level. Food security as defined in the 1974 World Food Summit underlines this: "availability at all times of adequate world food supplies of basic foodstuffs to sustain a steady expansion of food consumption and to offset fluctuations in production and prices.

Food insecurity and hunger, are off springs of financial resource constraint. Hunger, for example, can occur due to not eating food which may include dieting or very busy to eat.(Maxwell, 1996).

If we summarize the conceptual literature on Food security Maxwell and Frankenberger conclude it by putting emphasis on the word "enough" with emphasis on calories, and on requirements ... " *for an active, healthy life rather than simple survival*"—

Second is the access to food which is determined by food entitlements [Sen 1981], which are derived from

- Human and physical capital,
- Access to common property resources and
- Assets and stores,
- A variety of social contracts at household, community and state levels.

Third, the risk of entitlement failure determines the level of susceptibility and therefore the level of food insecurity, and hence it can be said that with risk being bigger, greater is the share of resources devoted to food acquisition.

A full definition of food security thus includes the related concepts of access, sufficiency, security (or vulnerability), and sustainability. (Maxwell, 1996)

CONCLUSIONS

The world bank in the UN MDG had put Hunger on the first priority not a single nation can be prosperous without this ground need. Having been viewed at all levels global, national, state, or in local communities, food security is the most essential, universal indicator of household and personal well-being. Food insecurity is the major indicator of low economic development and a representative of deprivation of basic need and also is possible precursors to nutritional, health, and developmental problems. In its (FAO, 2015) report it is very well mentioned that evolution of hunger trends particularly in India, has a significant impact on results for the region. It is because of the extensive Food distribution system that prevails in India that Higher world food prices, observed since the late 2000s, have not been entirely transmitted into domestic prices. This is one major positive outcome which has saved the country from the economic recession. Fast paced economic growth has not been able to reduce the number of food insecure in the world rather it can be viewed as major reason for poverty and under development because it has impacted the major shift from agricultural land to towns and cities ((Migration of rural population resulting in higher density at one place having resource constraints). Most countries in Southern Asia have made progress towards the international hunger targets, even if the pace has been too slow for them to reach either the WFS or the MDG targets, including, for example, Afghanistan, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. As these countries constitute a large share of the region's population, they account for the low overall performance – India still has the second-highest estimated number of undernourished people in the world. However Bangladesh is one such developing economy which has made quick progress and has already reached the MDG 1c hunger target, credit goes to the comprehensive National Food Policy framework adopted in the mid-2000s. Nepal, also, has not only reached the MDG 1c hunger target, but has almost reached the 5 percent threshold. One more country in the region, the Islamic Republic of Iran, has already brought the PoU below 5 percent, and has thus reached the MDG 1c target. (FAO, 2015)

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